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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6350

May 3, 1999

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

The Vice President
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510


Dear Mr. President and Mr. Vice President:

With unemployment rates at their lowest levels in recent memory and with Federal policy favoring efforts to move welfare recipients to productive, career-oriented work, we face an increasing challenge: the remaining pool of unemployed persons are the most unskilled and most difficult-to-place potential members of the workforce. To ensure that these Americans are not left behind on the Bridge to the Twenty-first Century, we urge you to take prompt action to highlight the role of small business in creating new jobs and helping these citizens share in the *American dream*.


That is why we are asking you to use the visibility and prominence of your offices to highlight the new HUBZones Program. Legislation enacted in 1997 created the HUBZone Program as part of that year's Small Business Reauthorization Act. The HUBZone Program seeks to increase the portion of Federal contracting dollars awarded to small business in the nation's most distressed areas, providing new jobs and new incomes where they are needed most.

Small businesses indeed are on the front lines in the battle to reclaim distressed urban neighborhoods, poor rural counties and long-neglected Indian reservations. This opportunity to bring jobs to the most intransigent centers of unemployment must not pass us by through neglect or inattention. We urge you to use the bully pulpit available to you to rally small business and encourage their participation in this vital new program.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond
Chairman, Committee on Small Business
United States Senate



Clarence Harmon
Mayor
City of St. Louis, Missouri